

## MINOR TRAVEL

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***IMPORTANT: The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City advises that the Mexican National Immigration Institute (INM) is still finalizing plans for the implementation of new regulations regarding the travel of minors. The information below reflects current guidance; this information will be updated as more becomes available from the Mexican authorities.***

On January 2, 2014, the Mexican National Immigration Institute (INM) will begin to enforce a new law with regard to minor (under 18 years of age) travel if:

- The minor is departing Mexico (i.e. not entering);
- Traveling by air or sea;
- Traveling alone or with a third party of legal age (grandparent, uncle/aunt, school group, etc.); and
- Using Mexican documents (birth certificate, passport, temporary or permanent Mexican residency).

The minor will be required to present a notarized document showing the consent to travel from both parents (or those with parental authority or legal guardianship), in addition to a passport, in order to leave Mexico. The document should be in Spanish; an English version must be accompanied by a Spanish translation. The document must be notarized or apostilled (for information, fees, and how to make an appointment for notarial services at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City please click [here](#)). The minor should carry the original letter (not a facsimile or scanned copy) as well as proof of the parent/child relationship (birth certificate or court document such as a custody decree, plus photocopies of both parents' government-issued identification). To view a sample travel consent letter click [here](#).

According to INM, this new regulation does NOT apply to a minor traveling with one parent or legal guardian, i.e. a consent letter from the missing parent is NOT required. In addition the regulation is not intended to apply to dual national minors (Mexican plus another nationality) if the minor is departing Mexico using the passport of the other nationality. However, if the minor is departing Mexico using the Mexican passport, the regulation does apply. The Embassy nevertheless recommends that dual nationals travel prepared with a consent letter from both parents.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City has received numerous reports of U.S. citizens being required to provide notarized consent forms for circumstances falling outside of the categories listed above, and/or being asked for such permission at land border crossings. Therefore, **the Embassy recommends all minors traveling without both parents carry a notarized consent letter at all times in the event airline or Mexican immigration representatives request one.**

Travelers should contact the [Mexican Embassy](#), the nearest Mexican consulate, or INM for more information.